29th January 1931]

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I am sorry that the question does not arise from the answer given."

Alleged use of the ice chest in the office of the Superintendent, Madras Penitentiary.

* 198 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the ice chest purchased for use in the hospital of the Madras Penitentiary is not kept in the hospital but kept in the Superintendent's office; and

(*b*) if so, why and for what use it is kept in the office of the Superintendent?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

Canals

N. P. Ayyar's scheme for improvements to the Buckingham Canal.

* 199 Q.—Mr. T. Sundara Rao Nayudu : With reference to question No. 42 answered at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 23rd August 1927, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. N. P. Ayyar submitted an alternative scheme, whereby he undertook to invest all the capital required to improve the Buckingham Canal and to make it navigable all through the year, if the Government was prepared to give him a monopoly for his launch service in the said canal and to pay him for a period of twelve years the average annual expenses incurred by the Government for the past five years as per figures given by the Revenue Member in the reply to the question No. 42 on 23rd August 1927; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken thereon?

A.—(*a*) Yes. His proposals provided for a payment to him of Rs. 2,96,203 per annum for a period of thirteen years and Rs. 50,000 per annum thereafter.

(*b*) The Government decided that they could not entertain Mr. N. P. Ayyar's proposals.

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I know whether Government have any proposal to make this Buckingham Canal pay its way?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"There is no such proposal before the Government now."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I know whether the Government propose to appoint a committee to investigate the possibilities of making this canal remunerative?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"No, Sir."